

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[76] An apparatus and method for changing over from an active network interface (NIF) to its standby NIF. The network system configuration may include at least two server computers, each having active and standby NIFs, the active NIF connected to first communication equipment and the standby NIF connected to second communication equipment. Both the first communication equipment and the second communication equipment are connected to a router. When at least one server computer detects a fault occurring in the path between its active network interface and the router, the server computer changes the IP address assignment from its active NIF to its standby NIF. Then, the server computer transmits an ARP request from its standby NIF to the router in order to make the router change the MAC address registration mapped to the above IP address, retained in the ARP cache of the router, from the MAC address assigned to its active NIF to the MAC address assigned to its standby NIF.